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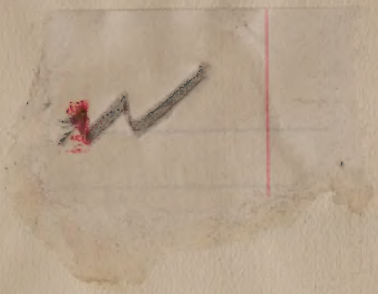

ORDER OF EXERCISES

AT THE

Dedication of Odd-Fellows Hall,

CHARLESTOWN, 1869

756 v. 69

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 29, 1869.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ADDRESS OF P. G. THOMAS B. HARRIS,

OF HOWARD LODGE.

PRINTED BY BRO. CLARENCE S. WASON.

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CUTTER

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

PRAYER.

BY REV. DEXTER S. KING, GRAND CHAPLAIN.

ODE.

Brethren of our friendly Order,
  Honor here asserts her sway,
All within her secret border,
  Must her high command obey.
Join, Odd-Fellowship of brothers,
  In the song of Truth and Love;
Leave disputes and strife to others,
  We in harmony must move.

Honor to her courts invites us,
  Worthy subjects let us prove;
Strong the chain that here unites us,
  Link'd with Friendship, Truth and Love.
In our hearts enshrined and cherished,
  May these feelings ever bloom;
Failing not when life has perished,
  Living still beyond the tomb.

SURRENDER OF HALL.

BY P. G. HORATIO WELLINGTON, OF BUNKER-HILL LODGE.

RESPONSE.

BY THOMAS C. PORTER, GRAND MASTER

DEDICATORY CEREMONIES.

SONG.

"BEAUTIFUL BELLS." BY QUARTETTE CHOIR.

ADDRESS.

BY P. G. THOMAS B. HARRIS, OF HOWARD LODGE.

ORIGINAL ODE.

BY EDMUND BRADFORD.

Three forms — Faith, Truth and Love —
Were, from the land above,
Each hand in hand,
Down to the realms of time —
To this new earthly clime —
Sent by the Lord divine,
From Father-land.

"Let there be light!" He said:
And down to earth they sped
Their rapid way;
And Faith, all clad in sight,
And Truth, all mailed in might,
And Love, with vision bright,
The Lord obey.

"Go forth," was the behest,
"North, South, and East, and West, —
The mission there;
Wherever man is found,
Let nought his progress bound;
Go, scatter seed around
O'er deserts bare."

* * * * *

The true, fair fruit to-night? —
This hall, the child of light;
The nations freed!
Our faith, that pierces far;
Our truth, the polar star;
Our love, that knows no bar, —
The record bright!

O Master! lend thine aid,
While here our vows are made;
Grant us success;
Accept this earthly shrine;
To us thine ear incline;
Oh, let the arm divine
Our Order bless!

BENEDICTION.

CHARLESTOWN, October 20, 1869.

P. G. THOMAS B. HARRIS:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER, — I am happy to be the medium, in behalf of a joint committee appointed from Bunker Hill and Howard Lodges, to convey to you a request that you will furnish, for publication, a copy of the able and instructive address delivered at the dedication of Odd-Fellows Hall.

Trusting it will be agreeable for you to comply with our request, I remain, truly and fraternally yours,

For the Committee,

HORATIO WELLINGTON.

CHARLESTOWN, October 27, 1869.

P. G. HORATIO WELLINGTON, Chairman of Committee:

DEAR BROTHER, — Your valued favor of 20th inst. is at hand. If the publication of the address I delivered at the dedication of our beautiful hall will be of any service in confirming the brethren in their devotion to the principles of Odd-Fellowship, I shall cheerfully comply with your kind request.

Truly and fraternally your Brother,

THOMAS B. HARRIS.

*

ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman and Brethren:

The hour for which we have so long waited has at length arrived. Our hall is completed, and has been dedicated by appropriate ceremonies to the purposes for which it was designed. It has been surrendered to the Grand Lodge by the committee having it in charge during its construction; the Grand Lodge, through its representatives present, has been pleased to accept it; and now, after consecrating it to the service of Odd-Fellowship, an institution we trust world-wide, yields it to the special uses of the Order in Charlestown. Our labors have been crowned with such success as must make this the occasion of honest pride and congratulation to our whole brotherhood.

That our hall is well adapted to the service for which it has been set apart, will be readily admitted by those who will receive the testimony of their eyes. It combines neatness and substantiality, convenience and beauty. We hope we may be pardoned any local egotism which the remark may imply, when

we say that we are now in possession of one of the most beautiful halls in the Commonwealth.

It would doubtless be of interest at this time to give, if it were possible, a history of our Order in this community; but the present circumstances forbid. Suffice it to say, that it is about twenty-seven years ago that our mother lodge, Bunker Hill, was organized, and it is about twenty-six years since her child, Howard, was born. This does not seem in our view a long while; yet in this fast age, when time is so crowded with events, it is long enough to give to our Order here something of the dignity that belongs to age. When we call to mind that at the period these Lodges were organized the magnetic telegraph and the photographic art, — those wonderful organs of communication and representation, — were unknown; that much of our country was then a wilderness, — and then contrast that time with the present, and realize the fact of the Grand Lodge of the United States holding their session last week in a city on the far-off Pacific, to which they journeyed all the way by rail, while daily intelligence of their doings was received by us, we cannot help thinking that age quickly accumulates upon an institution in these modern years. And here let me observe that Brother Rand, in his address delivered before Howard Lodge sixteen years ago, said, "We are living fast, and acting fast." From that time to the present we could make the same remark with double the emphasis.

It is twenty-four years, nearly, since Mishawum Hall was leased for the purposes of Odd-Fellowship.

The accommodations furnished to the Order in that hall were, in the day of small things, amply sufficient. But we were destined to grow. Our growth was indeed beyond our expectations, and we at length became convinced that our old hall was too limited. This fact, together with a desire to "keep up with the times," and to make provision for the future, caused a committee to be appointed early this summer, from Bunker Hill Encampment, Bunker Hill and Howard Lodges, with full powers to secure and renovate these apartments, and adapt them to our use. That committee consisted of Brothers Wellington, Rand, Peirce, Clapp, Chapin, Sibley, McKay, Wilson, and Harris. In this connection I cannot forbear mentioning that this committee was composed in part of the pioneers of Odd-Fellowship in Charlestown, and it is but just to say that the zeal of these long-tried brethren is unabated. I believe I express your sentiments when I say that the whole committee, so far as it becomes me to speak of it, has been faithful to the task assigned to their hands; and it will readily occur to you that their work has not been a light one. They do not complain of their labors, however; and if what they have done is satisfactory to the brethren, and shall serve in promoting the welfare of the Order, they will consider themselves amply repaid.

The present condition of our Encampment and Lodges in this city requires no lengthy statement. We number 544; we have about $15,000 as a charity fund, — not a large sum reckoned by the

Wall-street standard, but a good amount for us, and sufficient for our present purposes. We have had the honor of giving from our Lodges two Grand Masters to our State Grand Lodge, Rev. Brother E. H. Chapin and Caleb Rand. The great intellectual gifts of the former, and the practical wisdom of the latter, have contributed largely to the success of the Order in the United States. It must be a satisfaction to our "elder brothers" in this city to see the prosperity that has crowned their efforts thus outwardly manifested. Yet there is a far better success than this, — one which no accumulation of numbers could equal, and no outward honors approach. It is the good results which has attended our Lodges, in the performance of their great work of visiting the sick and relieving the distressed. Our records show, in the reports of our visiting committees, and in the appropriations that have been made to the work of charity, that we have served a good purpose in the world; while there are many without, especially widows and orphans, who are not ignorant of what we have done for the promotion of our principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

And now by the consecration of this hall we express our desire to awaken a more ardent love for our Order. To the community it represents the interest we already have in Odd-Fellowship, but to ourselves it should be the occasion of a new purpose to personally serve the principles to which we are obligated. It is encouraging that the great truths of the Order have become so generally accepted in our

land, that there are so many willing to promote "good will among their fellow men." Yet we may be assured that there is work in abundance for us each and all to do.

Before I close, it may be proper for me to devote a few words to what Odd-Fellowship is, and to what is its probable destiny. It is, then, in the first place, an institution founded on charity and philanthropy. Its aim is to mutually strengthen and encourage those who would secure their own good, by working for the relief and cheer of the needy and suffering. If it be not itself technically a religious institution, it can with justice claim to be the handmaiden of Christianity. It broadly asserts the brotherhood of man, and under the ample folds of its flag, on which is inscribed "Friendship, Love and Truth," all the highest interests of humanity find protection. However the narrow spirit of party may prevail in the world without, it must stop at the threshold of our Order; we have no place for it here. Our aim is to encourage a brotherly interest in each other's welfare, and to obliterate strife and alienation; and our signs, and symbols, and ceremonials are all in accordance with the spirit of universal brotherhood. "Odd Fellows" we are called; and very *odd* should we be if we were entirely faithful to the high principles to which we are pledged.

In regard to the future of our Order, I believe it is destined largely to succeed. How can it be otherwise? It is based on principles that are more and more prevailing among men. As the moral sen-

timents are cultivated, as men recognize their mutual moral obligations, as virtue and religion become more enthroned in our hearts, our foundation necessarily broadens. It would not be wise to prophesy precisely what future is to attend our institution; but judging from our past history, and remembering the nature of our work and our aim, we cannot help believing that God has a work for us to do, and be assured he will prosper us according to our labors. It is our hope that Odd-Fellowship is but just beginning its career in the world, and that it will in the fulness of time accomplish the great purpose to which it has been consecrated.

Brethren, your committee, in choosing me your orator for this evening, would give no heed to my urgent pleas of business and municipal cares, and I complied with their request, well knowing that I could produce nothing on this occasion that would be either brilliant or inspiring. It only remains for me to thank you for this honor, and to express the fervent hope that this hall which we dedicate to-night will long remain in this community to serve and honor our institution, and that God, who was so manifestly with our fathers, may be with us and remain with us, blessing our Order through all coming generations.

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